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themselves in changed circumstances. A copy of letter written by the Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary, NAC on the subject (DO No.1-505/2009-TW, dated 28th October 2010 with annexures) is attached.

Action is taken for any infringement of the existing laws and regulations within the Jarawa Reserve and further stringent measures are proposed in the proposed PAT Regulation amendment. In fact, satellite imagery confirms that there is absolutely no encroachment in the Jarawa Reserve. The Administration has been not just conscious of the need to protect the Jarawa Reserve, but to proactively strengthen the resource base of the Jarawas who are hunter-gatherers and to reduce impact of growing development specially tourism. This has been done by notifying a 5 kms. Buffer Zone around the existing Tribal Reserve, where we have stopped construction and operation of hotels, resorts, bars etc. This buffer zone, which is outside the Jarawa Reserve, comprises not just forests but 34 villages in South Andaman, Baratang and Middle Andaman islands; with many villagers seeing it as an attack on their livelihoods. These villages were set up by the Government in the 1950s-60s, as part of the Settlement Plan for refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan. Presently, there is a sustained campaign against the Buffer Zone notification including by the local MP, with daily rasta rokos etc. This is despite sufficient clarifications to leaders of Panchayat Raj Institutions, and directly to the public by the LG in his tours of the affected areas, in his Republic day address etc. The decision on the Buffer Zone has also landed the Administration in litigation. An affected party took us to the High Court, which ruled against us and quashed the Buffer Zone notification. However, we have filed an SLP in the Supreme Court against the order of High Court and obtained a stay order against the High Court decision. The matter is being heard in Court these days. The proposed amendment to A & N (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (PAT Regulation), once implemented will bring greater focus on reducing the impact of unwanted development around the Tribal Reserve.

With a view to regulating traffic on the ATR, police do not allow commercial vehicles that go to Baratang from Port Blair the same day. However, nothing prevents the individual tourist from coming back the same day using another vehicle. In fact, there is no legal basis for this same-day-return restriction, and individual operators have gone to Court successfully. The Administration also agrees that this restriction does not serve any purpose. Additionally, the residents of Baratang have gained substantially, many of whom are very poor, have gained considerably and have seen their economic status improve through this tourist traffic, by providing services including running country boats and that ferry tourists to the Limestone cave, mud volcano, providing guide facilities, running eateries etc. There are an estimated 200 tourist taxis in Port Blair that service tourists on the Port Blair-Baratang sector. It must be kept in mind that with the closure of commercial timber activities consequent on the orders of the Supreme Court, there is not much scope for employment generation other than through tourism, which is being promoted in a very controlled and incremental manner. It must also be kept in mind that the Andaman & Nicobar is a land-scarce territory, with almost 90% of the land area being under forest cover, and about 5% being water bodies (Intertidal zone, mangroves etc). The Nicobar district, besides from 6 villages of Great Nicobar, is a tribal district with all land ownership with tribals; the balance is forests. Hence, the scope for economic activities that could generate employment or raise the standard of living of the people is extremely limited. Contrary to the general notion that our population is growing rapidly due to migration from the mainland, the National Population Register (NPR) and Census House-listing exercises in 2009-2010 indicate that the population has grown from 3,56,000 in 1991 to around 4,00,000 at present.

Para 5: Combined teams of officials from the Departments of Police, Forests and Tribal Welfare/A&NVS, specially constituted in September 2006 in the vulnerable areas close to Tribal Reserve at Tirur, Middle Strait and Kadamtala, regularly patrol and monitor the illegal activities in and around the Reserve and cases are booked against the offenders. Enhanced penalty provisions for the offenders are already proposed in the amendment to the Section 8 of PAT Regulation.

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